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## THE GREATEST GENERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, we are a nation at war, a war the President has said may take years. He has asked for the Nation's patience and perseverance to deal with the perpetrators of terror and bring them to justice. A united nation stands prepared to make the necessary sacrifice and put up with the heightened security that disrupts our daily lives. It is an inconvenience that pales in comparison to the sacrifice of those brave Americans at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the fields of Pennsylvania on September 11.

For elder Americans, this is a second day of infamy that they have persevered through, the first being December 7, 1941. These Americans, that Tom Brokaw aptly describes as "the greatest generation" know all too well the meaning of sacrifice and resolve. No generation has shouldered more proudly this Nation's rise to world power. No generation has borne such a heavy burden. None stands more committed than they to stand with the Commander in Chief during this struggle. They know intuitively, as did the first President of their generation born in this century, that we must put Nation above self.

With all the patriotic fervor and resolve, they stand committed today to face any challenge, conquer any foe and sustain a nation free of terror for their children. Proud veterans know that this is a match that cannot be postponed and comfort the young, in return, with the words of Roosevelt that "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." They are in every sense of the

word magnificent citizens and role models. They have given much and asked little in return.

They hear all the platitudes and promises. They are celebrated in speech and in books and in the movies. But it is hard, hard to go home and look them in the eye and say there is no prescription drug relief, to say we are exhausting the Social Security surplus not only to fight Osama bin Laden but to provide corporate tax cuts. It is hard to look them in the eye as they travel to Canada for prescription drugs while Congress rolls back the alternative minimum tax.

Even amidst what must be hurtful to them, they never waiver. They stand by their Nation, their flag, their beliefs, prepared to sacrifice yet again for the Nation they love. Living out their lives in dignity is all they ask. Platitudes and promises do not heat their homes, put food on their table, or pay for the prescriptions needed to sustain their lives. Their generation believes you should be known by your deeds, not by the words that translate into empty promises.

There will be numerous speeches given on Veterans Day exalting the brave men and women of our Nation. Wreaths will be placed at memorials and people will gather in solemn remembrance and in firm resolve. When Members are back in their districts for parades and speeches and memorials, they should take a long look in the eyes of those veterans. We stand on their shoulders, the benefactors of their sacrifice and accomplishments.

They are prepared to see this second day of infamy through until justice is served. If only Congress would respond with the same resolve for them, the resolve to see their twilight years lived out in dignity, the resolve to provide them with affordable prescriptions here at home. If only Congress would show the willingness to sacrifice a corporate tax cut to preserve a life, to heat a home, to have a nutritious meal. If only Congress had the resolve to preserve Social Security and Medicare, the programs that have kept our elderly barely above the poverty line.

This is an unprecedented opportunity. The Nation stands united behind the President and Congress to root out terrorism.